

about 25 feet high, from which springs a light and fanciful cast-iron railing, to the height of about 5 feet. A handsome and commodious flight of stone steps forms the ascent to what is now rightly become the principal entrance to the church—the north-western door—with pillars and gateway, and two lamps half-way up on either side. The ground slopes from one end to the other about 14 feet; in such a case there is always a difficulty in arranging the levels. The usual way is to make the breaks at the piers, but in this case the difficulty has been got over by breaking the railing between the piers, which are of red brick with stone facings.

CONVERSAZIONE AT THE MANSION-HOUSE.

THE conversations given by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress on Wednesday, the 4th, passed off most successfully. More than 1,500 cards were issued, many of them double, and the Mansion-house was filled in every part with a distinguished crowd of English and foreign savans and literary men, including the greater number of those gentlemen who have been concerned in the Great Exhibition. Many scores of men moving in society saw the great room there for the first time (which was superbly lighted, by the way), and no question was repeated so often during the night as "Why is this called the Egyptian Hall?" Whether they thought the ordinary reply, "Because it is built in accordance with the Egyptian Hall described by Vitruvius," satisfactory, we will not pretend to say.

A concert, musical refreshments, and a collection of curiosities and models up-stairs, including Milton's watch, the gloves worn by William III. at the battle of the Boyne; a remarkable MS. from the Guildhall, relating to the times of Henry IV.; sketches taken in the Punjab, by the Hon. A. Hardinge; specimens of silvered glass; models illustrative of naval architecture from the Admiralty; examples of electro-plating by Elkington's process; and microscopic illustrations of the circulation of the blood in the feet of frogs, afforded full occupation to the visitors. Mr. Mosgrove seems determined to make his majority an epoch in the City annals, and is succeeding admirably.

ARCHITECTS' CHARGES.

THE GREAT GLOBE, LEICESTER-SQUARE.
WELCH v. WYLD.

THIS was an action brought in the Westminster County Court by Mr. Welch, architect, against Mr. James Wyld, M.P., to recover the sum of 47l. 4s. for certain plans, specifications, and drawings of the great model of the earth in Leicester-square, made at the request of the defendant. The plaintiff's case went to show that the work and labour had been supplied to the defendant, who subsequently disapproved of the plaintiff and requested him to retire, as he was in communication with another architect, who had denounced the plans as being impracticable. The papers and drawings were obtained from plaintiff, and he retired from the engagement to proceed with the undertaking, but stated that he should expect the usual remuneration for the services he had already rendered, namely, two and a half per cent. upon the contract. Tenders had been received in consequence of an advertisement inserted in *THE BUILDER*, and Mr. Myers' contract was accepted after it had been reduced by plaintiff from 2,561l. to 1,888l. and the present claim was the per centage on that amount. Mr. Wyld had promised to pay, it was alleged, but in examination the defendant denied it most positively. After hearing all the facts, the judge thought the preponderance of evidence was on the plaintiff's side, and therefore gave him a verdict, with full costs.

BARNLEY v. CARTWRIGHT.

THIS was an action at Wolverhampton for 5l. money alleged to be due to plaintiff, an architect, for superintending the erection of a house. Mr. Underhill supported

the plaintiff, Mr. Hayes the defendant. Mr. Barnley stated that in the month of April, last year, Mr. Cartwright applied to him to draw out plans and specifications of a house he wished to erect. He did so, and made an estimate of the cost. The defendant observed that the cost was rather more than he wished to expend, and he, at his request, made out another, and in the presence of a witness agreed to superintend the erection of the building. He overlooked the erection of the building for two months, and generally visited it two or three times a day. The defence was to the effect that plaintiff was also a builder, had made a contract to put up the timber part of the building, that he came to overlook his men, and that no plans had been received by defendant. Judgment for plaintiff.

BUILDERS' ACTIONS.

HOLLAND v. EARL OF HARBOURGH.

HAVING noticed in your journal of the 5th April last a paragraph relative to the late action, *Holland v. Earl of Harborough*, I beg to submit to your notice the manner in which the whole affair has been conducted and closed. As you are aware, the cause had proceeded just far enough to elicit all the costly fees of the court, when the judge declared that he was no architect or surveyor, and therefore considered it a very fit case for reference. Mr. Homfray (one of the defendant's counsel) also said, that for the honour of his lordship (the defendant), and to allow him an opportunity of appearing in court to rebut the evidence of one of the plaintiff's principal witnesses, the case (in justice to him) ought to be referred. This being agreed upon, the next question arose as to who should be the arbitrator, and Sir Barclay Wilmot (a barrister-at-law) was soon fixed upon by counsel and judge, neither plaintiff nor defendant, nor even their respective architects having a voice as to the choice of such referee.

Now, without in the least calling in question Sir E. Wilmot's legal acquirements, let me just for a moment, Mr. Editor, draw your attention to this ridiculous part of the matter. The judge a short time ago declared himself unable to proceed with the case, being no architect, and at once sanctions the appointment of a barrister-at-law to conduct it for him.

After some days had elapsed, it was arranged on the 14th of April last that the Court should be held at Melton Mowbray, a town 15 miles from Leicester, and about 4 miles from Stabford-hall (Lord Harborough's seat). The plaintiff's original claim being 614l. 18. 6d. and the defendant having paid into court 457l. 14s. 4d., consequently left a balance due to plaintiff of 156l. 7s. 2d., which was the bone of contention, and although the Court was removed within a few miles of the noble Earl's seat, he either dared not or would not appear in court.

After the whole of the witnesses had been examined, and the counsel on both sides had summed up the evidence, Sir E. Wilmot remarked that as there was a difference between the two architects engaged by plaintiff and those by defendant (and he not being able to judge which were correct), it would be necessary for him to engage a fifth architect whose opinion he must be guided by.

On the 26th of May, the plaintiff's attorney received a letter from Sir E. Wilmot, stating that on receipt of 92l. 4s., the award should be forwarded. The amount was sent forthwith, and the award is now before me, being in our favour. But before this result was arrived at, there had been engaged in this cause no less than one judge, nine barristers, four attorneys, and five architects, at a cost, including the expense on both sides, of upwards of 600l.!

You have my permission, Mr. Editor, to make what use you like of this statement, which I trust will tend to further your object in getting such, or similar, disputes, between employer and employed, arranged in a more speedy, direct, and cheap manner.

TOMAS HOLLAND,

(Son of the plaintiff in the above case).

ARTISTICAL AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE FROM ABROAD.

Archæological Society, Athens.—This body has caused, of late, some excavations to be made, under the superintendence of M. P. P. of the results of which, although they have been kept secret, not to anticipate M. P.'s reports, the following has become known:—There have been found, under the foundations in the court of a small house, the ruins of the old court-house of Athens. Besides a number of fine blocks of the Piræus stone, numerous sculptures and inscriptions have been discovered: the former, although much broken, are of surprising beauty. The arm of a statue, over which part of the garment of archaic type is thrown, is much admired. Sixty inscriptions have been already discovered, mostly relating to rewards and honour bestowed on deserving citizens of the Macedonian or Roman era; one of the former of the Archonship of Nikias (O. I. 211. 1). It is interesting to observe, that it is stated on all of these inscriptions, that they are to be put up in the council hall, or in the council. These researches have already led to an interesting elucidation of Athenian topography. They have been made at the north-west corner of the Acropolis. Hence we see that those have erred who have placed the Athens court-house, and the buildings connected therewith, behind the hall of Mars (Areopagus). The description of Pausanias points to the right, viz. to the side of the Areopagus. That author mentions the statues of Harmodius and Aristogiton, which were in or near the court house, and he places them on the road from the Kerameikos to the Areopagus.

Co-operative Power.—The number of small weekly contributors towards the building of St. Nicholas' Church at Hamburg is 15,002, who have consequently advanced that undertaking during the present year by a sum of 15,045 mark banco.

A Temple of enlarged Christianity.—On the 1st of May, the foundation was laid at the Barmstedt, in Hamburg, of a vast edifice, to give shelter to those hundreds of families, Christian and Jewish, who at each quarter's rent-day are unable to satisfy their landlord, and are therefore driven out to the open street. This is the first benevolent institution in Hamburg, equally accessible to members of both testamentary religions.

Melchior Boisseree.—The death of this distinguished man, brother to Salpize Boisseree, is much regretted throughout Germany. It was so far back as the year 1844, that three young men, citizens of Cologne, conceived the idea of collecting and resuscitating the mediæval art-relics of the Rhine-lands. But what was, probably, but contemplated as a provincial undertaking, soon attracted the eyes of Europe, and became a great fact of modern art-history. When, about 1808, Salpize B. determined to devote himself entirely to the work on the *Cologne Cathedral*, Melchior and his brother Bertram continued the research and collection of ancient paintings. But already in 1810, the old pictures had outgrown the scanty spaces appropriate to them at Cologne. They were transferred first to Heidelberg, and in 1819 the three brothers migrated with them to Stuttgart, where the king afforded room to this unique gathering of mediæval art. It was Melchior who chiefly attended to the restoration of the pictures, and enriched the collection during his travels in the Netherlands, in 1812 and 1813. Having found some of the pictures of Hemling and Memling, it was he who first attracted notice to these excellent, hitherto hardly known artists. In 1827 the collection was sold to Ludwig of Bavaria, and so the Pinakothek (where they were to be placed) was not ready, the pictures were conveyed to Scheideheim. In this retirement, Melchior Boisseree devoted his whole attention to the art of glass painting, which at that time was not considered as lost. If now such great things are accomplished at Munich (conjointly with his brother Bertram) who paved the way by this collection of old specimens, seen with astonishment by travellers from the whole of Europe. When Ber-

* George Dance was the architect, 1780.